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State health plan

Iowa's five-year plan for improving the health of Iowans will be released for public comment this month. *Healthy Iowans: Iowa's Health Improvement Plan 2012-2016* lists 39 critical needs across nine topic areas. I encourage you to review this plan, which was formulated based upon the input of nearly 100 individuals representing more than 60 public and private organizations. Beginning March 19, the draft plan will be available on the Healthy Iowans website. Please submit your comments by April 13.

LOL

As public health professionals, we all are aware of the critical importance of physical activity and healthy nutrition in achieving overall wellness. It's important that we also remember emotional health plays an equally important role in our health. I'm excited about an event planned for next month that will definitely be something to 'smile about.' In fact, you might just 'laugh out loud' about it. Be watching for more information soon about our partnership with Governor Branstad's Healthiest State Initiative that will definitely be a laughing matter.

Inter-agency partnership

Earlier this month, IDPH was involved in promotion of <u>Problem Gambling Awareness</u> <u>Week</u>. It should be noted that one of our key partners in the effort to combat problem gambling is the <u>Iowa Lottery</u>. The Lottery invested nearly \$60,000 in promotion of Problem Gambling Awareness Week, including a special <u>blog</u> about the help that is available for those concerned about problem gambling. This inter-agency partnership is an example of how seemingly disparate entities can collaborate for the benefit of all Iowans. For the majority of Iowans, gambling is a harmless pastime, but 13 percent of

Iowans say they've experienced at least one symptom of problem gambling, including betting more than they could afford, or going back another day to try to win back money lost. The support of the Iowa Lottery is appreciated and important to our work in reaching those in need of assistance or counseling.

Health literacy conference

<u>Health Literacy Iowa</u> and New Readers of Iowa will host <u>Health Literacy in Iowa:</u>
<u>Partnering to Change Research into Action</u> in Des Moines on April 13 and14, 2012. The event is an important part of Iowa's response to the <u>National Action Plan to Improve Health Literacy</u>. The conference is intended for health care providers, public health professionals, health care educators, adult literacy and literacy professionals, adult learners, researchers, librarians, students, educators, insurers/payers, employers, and policy-makers.

Congrats and kudos

Please join me in congratulating Shaela Meister in the IDPH <u>Bureau of Oral and Health Delivery Systems</u>, who has been selected to receive the Richard Remington award at the <u>2012 Iowa Governor's Conference on Public Health</u>. The Richard Remington award recognizes an individual, a team of individuals, or a community/business that has excelled in the advancement of public health through new or existing public health promotion/prevention initiatives or a long-term dedication to public health. Shaela was nominated in recognition of her creativity and professionalism in giving dental public health a "face" in Iowa, particularly in helping move the <u>I-Smile™</u> initiative from a little-known state program into a national model. Among Shaela's many accomplishments, she has developed the I-Smile™ website, a resource for families and health professionals; coordinated an I-Smile™ oral health education campaign with radio spots and television PSAs; assisted I-Smile™ Coordinators with ongoing design and development of education materials, including resources for Children's Dental Health Month; and managed a Google Group website where coordinators can regularly connect and share best practices.

Gloria Dielschneider, who was served as a public health nurse in Grundy County since 1986 and a school nurse since 2001, has been named 2012 Iowa School Nurse of the Year. Employed by two school districts, BCLUW Schools since 2001, and Grundy Center Community Schools since 2005, Gloria serves 1300 students in five buildings between three rural communities covering thirty miles. Gloria is a trained Child Care Health Consultant, a certified Agricultural Occupational Health Nurse and Farm Safety Reviewer, and CPR and First Aid Instructor. Her background includes National Incident Management, Public Health Emergency Management, and Basic Epidemiology, Surveillance, and Outbreak Investigation. She serves on local and county wellness committees, advocates for Healthy Iowa initiatives including Live Healthy Iowa and Blue Zones, and has organized Healthy Lifestyle Days for students. Gloria was the recipient

of the 2005 Iowa Governor's Award for outstanding service to Iowa's children in early childhood care and education. In 2004-2005 Gloria received the Iowa Public Health Association's Thelma Luther Award recognizing a local public health nurse for outstanding contributions in her field. Congratulations to our local public health partner!

Each year the <u>Iowa Nurses Association</u> and the Iowa Nurse Foundation identifies <u>100</u> <u>outstanding nurses</u> whose courage, competence and commitment to patients and the nursing profession stand out above all others and contribute significantly to the profession of nursing. The <u>Black Hawk County Health Department</u> Disease Surveillance Program is proud to announce the selection of Angie Graham as a top 100 Nurse for 2012. Angie began her career with the Black Hawk County Health Department in 1999. Since 2005, Angie has been a tuberculosis nurse, committed to the elimination of TB in our community through providing education, treatment and investigation. Congratulations, Angie!

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To everyone in public health and all our partners, keep up the great work!

— Dr. Miller-Meeks